From: Stephen Horlander
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

The fact that a convicted monopolist, who has deliberately hurt competitors and suppressed innovation, can be let off with a slap on the wrist truly makes me wonder about the state of our legal system. This proposed settlement in no way will limit Microsoft from continuing to abuse their illegal monopoly, and crushing potential competition and further strangling their own customers, who will be left with little or no choices.

Already Microsoft has laughed at the Department of Justice and the community at large by further populating their operating system with services such as Windows Messenger or Windows Media Player or the dreaded Passport, which seeks to obtain a new monopoly on not just operating systems but on a persons personal information. These services are not even removable by the end user, they are stuck with them just as they are stuck with Internet Explorer. Not only must people suffer with un-needed programs but Microsoft quickly proceeds to shove notices for these services in the users face with no way to disable them.

Microsoft uses its monopoly on operating systems and browsers and office software to keep a hold on its customers, customers who have no way to escape because Microsoft will not release its file formats or protocols to the public. I really hope that someone comes to their senses before it is too late. Please show Microsoft that it cannot do what ever it wants with no consequences just because it has enough money and power to do so.